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WOLVERINE
$1.25 US
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UK 50p
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MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:

WOLVERINE "SAVE THE TIGER" 1
WRITER — Chris Claremont
PENCILER — John Buscema
INKER — Klaus Janson
LETTERER — Tom Orzechowski
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

"THE GALS" — PART 3 OF 10
What's an adventure without a damsel in distress? Unfortunately for Wolverine, all the ladies he encounters are more interested in taking his scalp than winning his heart. Even worse, they may just succeed.

MAN-THING "ELEMENTS OF TERROR" 9
WRITER — Steve Gerber
PENCILER — Tom Sutton
INKER — Tom Sutton
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — Petra Scotese

"RITUAL AND BELIEF" — PART 3 OF 12
"Some bad ideas never die." The words alluded to a decade-old government project to create a Super-Soldier, and moments after speaking them, Senator Wilbur Wycombe fell victim to the blade of a masked assailant. But is Wycombe dead? Why was his body transported from Washington D.C. to Florida into the hands of the very men his Senate committee was investigating? Is it possible the government never abandoned the Super-Soldier Project after it had gone awry and transformed biochemist Ted Sallis into the monstrous Man-Thing?

MASTER OF KUNG FU "CROSSING LINES" 17
WRITER — Doug Moench
PENCILER — Tom Grindberg
INKER — Dave Cockrum
LETTERER — Agustin Mas
COLORIST — Petra Scotese

"FISH" — PART 3 of 8
With terrorism escalating in Hong Kong, Blackjack Tarr's "games" of tradecraft have become more deadly than ever. Shang-Chi refuses to play. Then the new agent Xiao is murderered — and Chi's former lover Leiko Wu kidnaped.

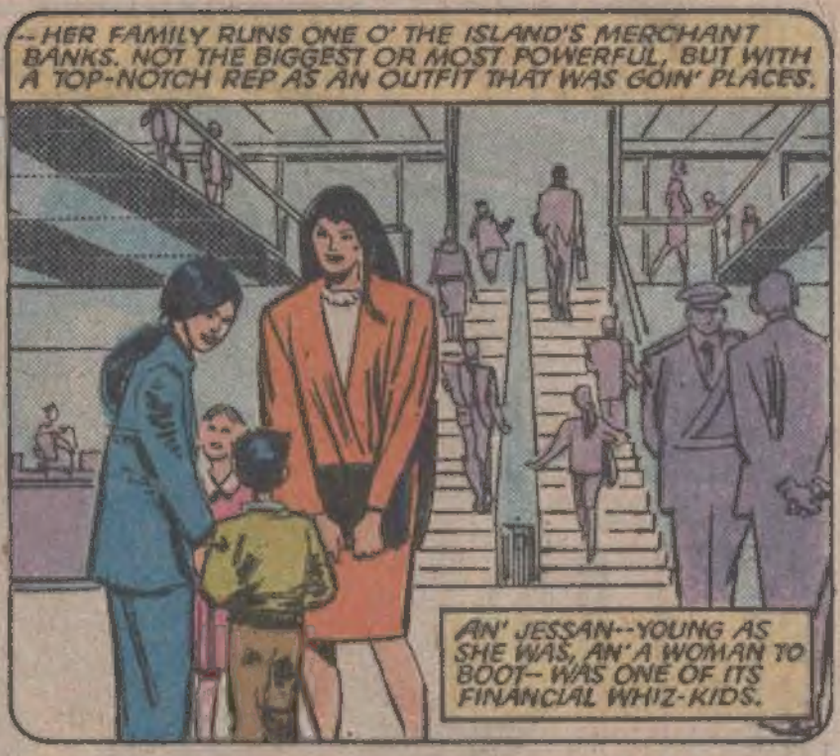
THE THING THE MEASURE OF A MAN 25
WRITER — Al Milgrom
PENCILER — Al Milgrom
INKER — Al Milgrom
LETTERER — Jim Novak
COLORIST — Greg Wright

Wherein Ben Grimm learns that the more things change, the more they remain the same . . .

MARVEL® COMICS PRESENTS™ Vol. 1, No. 3, Late September, 1988. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published bi-weekly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. Subscription rate $15.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $21.00. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. PRINTED IN CANADA.

SAVE the TIGER
STARRING
WOLVERINE
CHAPTER 3:
THE GALS
NEVER FAILS TO AMAZE ME, THE PEOPLE YOU RUN INTO...
...IN THE UNLIKELIEST OF PLACES, WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.
MADRIPOOR LOWTOWN.
IT CAN'T BE--
--JESSAN HOAN!

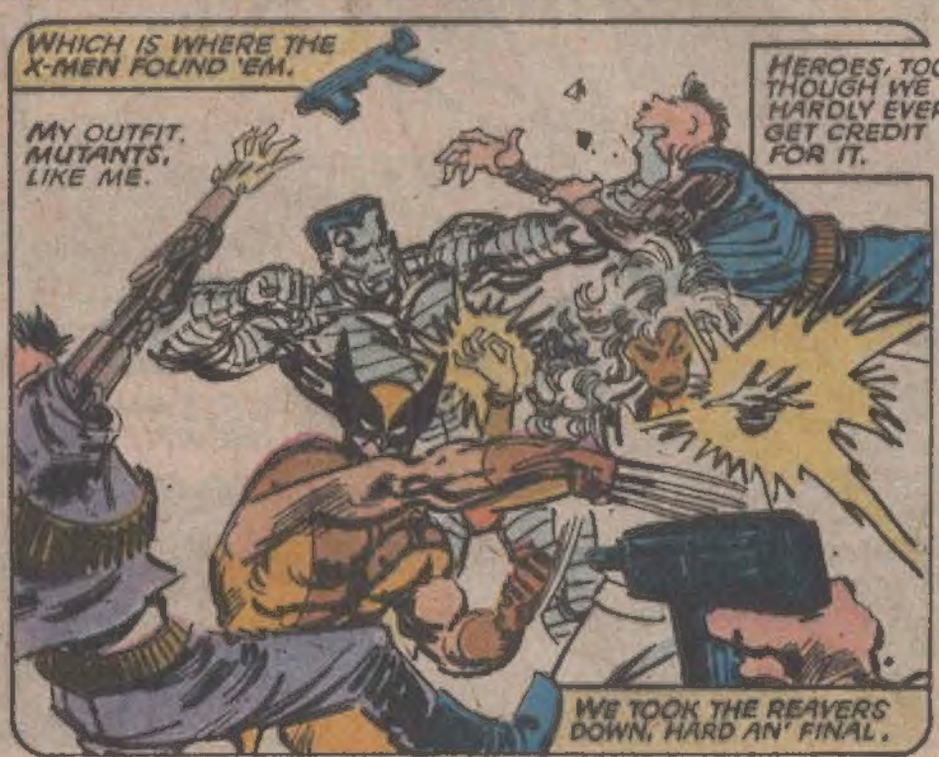
WHAT THE DEVIL YOU DOIN' HERE, GIRL—
--DRESSED LIKE THAT?!
SHE'S FROM SINGAPORE--


--HER FAMILY RUNS ONE O' THE ISLAND'S MERCHANT BANKS. NOT THE BIGGEST OR MOST POWERFUL, BUT WITH A TOP-NOTCH REP AS AN OUTFIT THAT WAS GOIN' PLACES.
AN' JESSAN--YOUNG AS SHE WAS, AN' A WOMAN TO BOOT-- WAS ONE OF ITS FINANCIAL WHIZ-KIDS.

'TIL THE MORNIN' THE REAVERS BLASTED OUT OF THEIR TELEPORTER PORTAL...
...AN' BLITZED THE PLACE.

IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL, THAT GANG O' CYBORG FREEBOOTERS-- MORE MACHINES THAN MEN-- STRIPPED THE BANK BARE AN' SLAUGHTERED MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN IT.
JESSAN, THEY TOOK WITH 'EM.

SEEMS THEY HAD ALL THIS LOOT, BUT NO WAY TO USE IT. THEY FIGURED TO MAKE HER DO FOR THEM WHAT SHE DID FOR THE BANK.
SO, BACK THEY WENT-- THE WAY THEY CAME-- TO THIS DUMP OF A DERELICT TOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK.


WHICH IS WHERE THE X-MEN FOUND 'EM.
MY OUTFIT. MUTANTS, LIKE ME.
HEROES, TOO, THOUGH WE HARDLY EVER GET CREDIT FOR IT.
WE TOOK THE REAVERS DOWN, HARD AN' FINAL.

PROBLEM THEN WAS, WHAT TO DO WITH 'EM?
WORLD THINKS THE X-MEN ARE DEAD, WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. WHICH MEANS EITHER KILLIN' OUR PRISONERS OR MAKIN' SURE THEY COULDN'T EVER TALK. ROMA-- SOME SORT'A CELESTIAL GUARDIAN, THE LADY WHO SICC'D US ON THE REAVERS--
--CAME UP WITH A SOLUTION: THE LEGENDARY SEIGE PERILOUS. ALL WHO PASSED THROUGH, SHE SAID, WERE JUDGED ACCORDIN' TO THE GOOD AN' ILL THEY'D DONE...
...AN' APPORTIONED A NEW LIFE, ACCORDINGLY.
TOO FLAMIN' METAPHYSICAL FOR MY TASTE, I WAS JUST GLAD TO BE RID OF THE SLUDGE.
BUT WHEN IT CAME JESSAN'S TURN...
NO!
I CAN'T! PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME! I WON'T GO THROUGH THAT AWFUL DOORWAY!
IT ISN'T FAIR, I'M NOT ONE OF THEM--
--WHY MUST I BE PUNISHED?!
WHY CAN'T YOU SIMPLY SEND ME HOME?!!
KID HAD A POINT.
AN' EVEN THOUGH IT JEOPARDIZED OUR SECURITY, WE BACKED HER UP.
THE POWERS OF SPACE AND TIME ARE MINE TO COMMAND, CHILD. I CAN RETURN YOU TO THE PLACE AND MOMENT FROM WHICH YOU WERE ABDUCTED...
...IF SUCH IS YOUR DESIRE.
YES, oh YES!
THEN IT IS DONE.
BUT YOU MAY NOT THANK ME FOR IT.
THAT WAS A WHILE AGO. WE GOT ON WITH OUR NEW LIVES, ASSUMED JESSAN'D DO THE SAME. NEVER FIGURED WE'D MEET AGAIN.
AN' SURE NOT LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE, I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU SAY I AM.
LEAVE ME ALONE, LET ME GO!
NOT WITHOUT ANSWERS!

I HAVE NONE TO GIVE!
NICE MOVE--
--STREET FIGHTING MOVE--

--NOT AT ALL WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM A MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATE OF HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL.
THAT'S MY MISTAKE.
RELATING TO HER AS WHAT I REMEMBER HER BEING--THE CULTURED, SOPHISTICATED LADY BANKER--

--RATHER THAN THE SCRAPPER SHE'S BECOME.
COSTS ME.
POWDER HITS LIKE MACE.

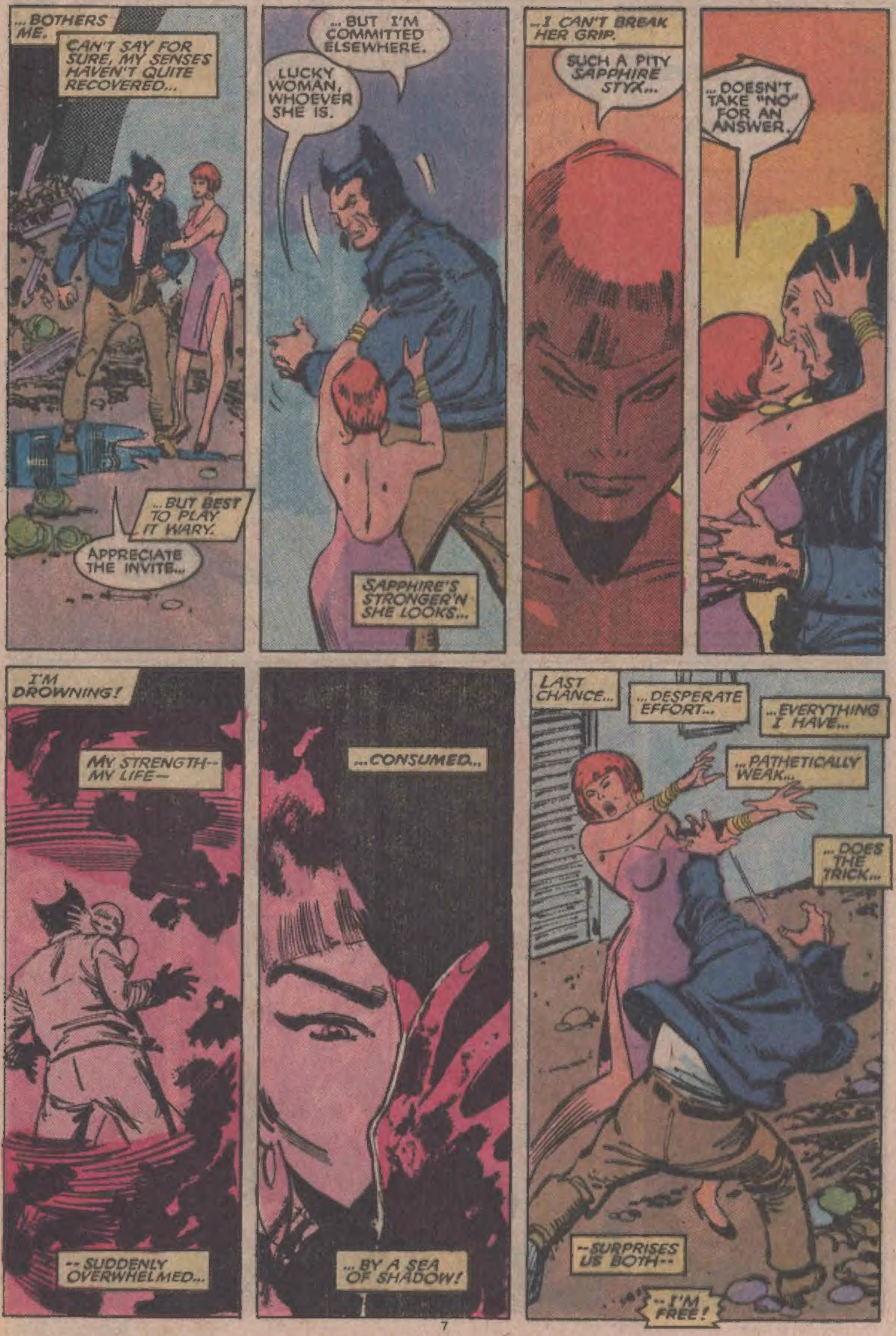
INSTANTLY, I'M BLIND, COUGHING, CHOKING, MY SENSE OF SMELL TOTALLY GONE, MY BRAIN CARTWHEELING OUT OF THIS WORLD.
NIFTY AIKIDO KICK SENDS MY BODY SPINNING AFTER IT.
RIGHT IN THE PATH OF A TRUCK.

DRIVER BAILS OUT, TRUCK HITS ME, HITS WALL...
SLAMM
...THERE'S A HECKUVA MESS.

LUCKILY, MY BONES CAN'T BE BROKEN--AN' MY MUTANT POWER'S A HEALING FACTOR THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CUTS AN' BRUISES. A NORMAL MAN WOULD'A BEEN IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.

SEEIN' THAT I'M NOT...
... JESSAN CHOOSES DISCRETION OVER VALOR.
SHE DOESN'T "RABBIT" FAR, THOUGH.
ONLY TO THE CORNER...
... FOR SOME WHEELS.
HEY!
WHAT THE--?!
PHILLY, YOUR BIKE--!
VROOOM!
ME, I'M GETTIN' MY ACT TOGETHER--
--STILL PRETTY MUCH ZONED BY HER DUST--
--I DON'T EVEN HEAR HER COMING...
KICK
SPLAT

I COME UP FAST...
...BUT SHE'S OUT OF REACH.
NO PROBLEM. I KNOW HER SCENT. I CAN FOLLOW HER TRAIL ANYWHERE.
BUT WHY BOTHER?
SHE NAILED ME GOOD-- LITTLE SLIP OF A GIRL-- BEEN A FAIR PIECE SINCE ANYBODY'S DONE THAT.
I CONSIDER HOW I LOOK-- ME, WOLVERINE, THE HOTSHOT WARRIOR, SUPPOSEDLY THE DEADLIEST CRITTER ON TWO LEGS--
--AN' I CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH!
OKAY, THE LADY'S CHANGED. EVERYBODY DOES. SOME FOR THE BETTER, HER EVIDENTLY NOT.
BUT THAT'S HER BUSINESS.
STRANGER, THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE YOUR NIGHT.
SCENT'S FAMILIAR.
SAPPHIRE'S HER NAME.
WE MET IN THE PRINCESS BAR.
BUT WHO CAN TELL, PERHAPS YOUR LUCK'S ABOUT TO CHANGE?
MAYBE I SHOULD QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD?
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT NOTHING VENTURED...
...NOTHING GAINED.
YOU'RE A ROYAL MESS, MY SWEET.
MY PLACE IS CLOSE BY, IF YOU'D LIKE TO TIDY UP AND...
...RELAX.
TEMPTING OFFER...
...BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER SCENT...


...BOTHERS ME.
CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, MY SENSES HAVEN'T QUITE RECOVERED...
...BUT BEST TO PLAY IT WARY.
APPRECIATE THE INVITE...
...BUT I'M COMMITTED ELSEWHERE.
LUCKY WOMAN, WHOEVER SHE IS.
SAPPHIRE'S STRONGER'N SHE LOOKS...
...I CAN'T BREAK HER GRIP.
SUCH A PITY SAPPHIRE STYX...
...DOESN'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER.
I'M DROWNING!
MY STRENGTH-- MY LIFE--
--SUDDENLY OVERWHELMED...
...CONSUMED...
...BY A SEA OF SHADOW!
LAST CHANCE...
...DESPERATE EFFORT...
...EVERYTHING I HAVE...
...PATHETICALLY WEAK...
...DOES THE TRICK...
--SURPRISES US BOTH--
...I'M FREE!

NEED TIME...
--FOR MY HEALING FACTOR TO DO ITS WORK--
--STAGGER BLINDLY...
...ANIMAL ON THE RUN...
...TRYING TO PUT AS MUCH DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THAT VAMPIRE AS I CAN.
SHOULD HAVE REALIZED SHE'S THE TYPE THAT WOULDN'T HAVE COME ALONE.
THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU TONIGHT, MY FRIEND.
YOUR FATE'S SIGNED, SEALED, DELIVERED...
...COURTESY OF RAZORFIST!
TH
KOW
INCREDIBLE!
HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS-- STILL FIGHTING!
OH BABY-- I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYBODY LIKE YOU...
IT'S ALMOST A SHAME TO TURN YOU OVER TO ROCHE!
I'D SO LOVE TO KEEP YOU FOR MYSELF--
--BUT A CONTRACT'S A CONTRACT.
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH-- WE'LL WAKE YOU UP...
...IN TIME TO DIE!

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

THE MAN-THING
ELEMENTS OF TERROR - CHAPTER III
RITUAL AND
"CORNDOG TO IVORY TOWER --"
"ROGER, IVORY TOWER. PORKER ON BOARD. OVER."
"REQUEST CLEARANCE TO LAND. OVER."
"ROGER. DISPATCHING TECHNICAL SUPPORT OVER AND OUT."
"ROGER, CORNDOG. YOU ARE CLEARED FOR LANDING ON STRIP ONE ARE YOU BRINGING HOME THE BACON? OVER."
MEATY OLD CUSS, ISN'T HE?
JUST DON'T DROP HIM, BOYS.
WE GOT TOO MUCH INVESTED IN KEEPIN' HIM BARELY ALIVE.

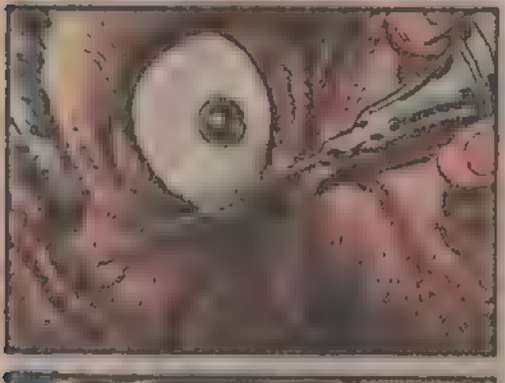
I TAKE IT THIS IS OUR NEW SUBJECT, LAHNER?
YOUR VERY OWN SLAB O' SENATORIAL MEAT, RAILSBACK

NOT THE IDEAL CHOICE LACERATIONS OVER THE BODY.. AGE AND WEIGHT...
HIS CHANCES OF SURVIVING THE TREATMENT AREN'T THE BEST.
AWW.

I SEE. VERY WELL, THEN...

NURSE GOREN...
READY, DOCTOR

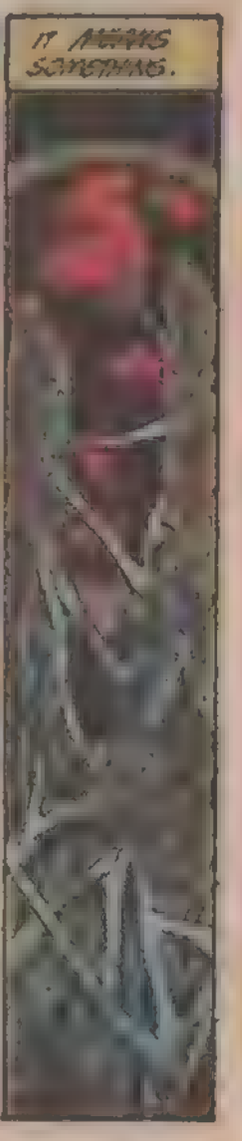
PROCEED.



RELAX, WILBUR..

...THIS WON'T HURT A BIT. IN FACT, IF IT WORKS...

...YOU COULD WIND UP FEELIN' BETTER THAN YOU'VE FELT IN YOUR WHOLE PIGGISH LIFE.


IT ALWAYS SOMETHING.

THIS O'SAGGLEMENT OF HIS DISFIGUREMENT MEANS SOMETHING.
SOMEWHERE, IN THE BOGGY RECESSES OF WHAT ONCE WAS HIS MIND, THE MAN-THING KNOWS THIS
HE CANNOT REASON... OR RECALL...OR REFLECT...
...SO HE STARES.
AND, AFTER A TIME, PICTURES COME, EACH REPAINTING ITSELF INTO THE NEXT.
THEY HURT.
NO. HE HURTS...WAS HURT... BY THE... IN THE... RHYMES WITH "DEAD"...
TED.
THE PICTURES STOP.
THE PAIN DOES NOT
BUT HE IS CHANGED... TO SOMETHING SOMETHING THAT KNOWS.
SOMETIMES.

BE FUNNY, WOULDN'T IT...
...IF THE SERUM WORKED THIS TIME?
I MEAN, CONSIDERIN' WYCOMBE'S VIEWS ON AID TO THE BOYS DOWN SOUTH?
AMUSING OR NOT, THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE.
WE MAY FINALLY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DUPLICATING SALLIS'S FORMULA.
GOOD. 'CAUSE THAT PUTS PROJECT GLAMOR IN REACH...
...WHICH MEANS I GET TO DEAL WITH A FEW LESS ANXIETY ATTACKS.
WASHINGTON, D.C.:
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT "PROJECT: GLAMOR" IS OR WAS.
YOUR FRIEND WYCOMBE HAD A HABIT OF SPRINGING SURPRISES ON THE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE WITNESSES.
NOT AS BIG A SURPRISE AS ME GOT LAST NIGHT, OF COURSE.
NO, OTTILLIO. NOT THAT BIG. YOU WERE ON THE PHONE WITH HIM WHEN IT HAPPENED, WEREN'T YOU?
YEP, SENATOR MILLER, I SURE WAS...!
MICKEY... HAS IT OCCURRED TO YOU THAT, WELL...
...THAT THIS "GLAMOR" BUSINESS MAY NOT BE THE HEALTHIEST THING TO KNOW ABOUT?
SENATOR -- ARE YOU SAYING THAT WYCOMBE'S MURDER COULD BE LINKED TO TESTIMONY AT THE HEARINGS?
I'M ASKING, NOT SAYING.
I'D REALLY HATE TO SEE THAT ON YOUR FRONT PAGE TOMORROW

UNBELIEVABLE...
LATVERIAN ARMS SALES
SWISS ACCOUNT
COLOMBIAN ACCOUNT
ANTI-DRUG
GUERRILLAS
FSS1
EVERYTHING'S CONNECTED TO EVERYTHING ELSE...AND BACK AGAIN
BUT MAYBE THAT'S THE PROBLEM--MAYBE IT'S A LITTLE TOO SELF-CONTAINED
hmmh...?
CHOATE'S A LOSER. HE WOULDN'T SET UP AN OPERATION THAT CHASED ITS OWN TAIL.
THERE'S GOT TO BE A MAJOR ELEMENT MISSING.
:YAWN: WHAT'S WRONG, MICK...?
WYCOMBE WAS ONTO SOMETHING. "PROJECT GLAMOR"--AND THAT SUPER-SOLDIER THING HE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT--
SUPER-SOLDIER?
DON'T MAKE FUN. THIS IS SERIOUS. SALLIS'S RESEARCH OF YEARS AGO IS TIED IN SOMEHOW WITH--
YES?
MAN, YOU'VE GOT NEAT LEGS...
I LOOK FORWARD TO GAPING AT THEM AGAIN WHEN I GET BACK FROM FLORIDA.
FLORIDA...?
WHERE SALLIS DISAPPEARED. I NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM.

MARYLAND, JUST OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, DC. THE HOME OF COLONEL JODY GARRETT.
THIS IS STEEL. GO AHEAD, CORNDOG.
EXCELLENT NEWS, YES... BUT PORK FUTURES WILL HAVE TO WAIT.
WE HAVE A RODENT PROBLEM. HIS WORK IS TAKING HIM TO YOUR TERRITORY.
NO, THAT'S ACCEPTABLE.
YES. STANDARD PEST CONTROL PROCEDURE.
NO. YOU HANDLE THE CONTACT WITH DEMON.
OF COURSE. I'M NOT AFRAID OF--
DEMON'S PREFERENCES DO NOT CONCERN ME, CORNDOG.
WE BOTH KNOW WHY SHE CO-OPERATES.
FINE. I'LL EXPECT YOUR CALL.
JODY? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
OUR CHILDREN HAVE TO GROW UP FREE, DEBBI.
THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
FREEDOM.
FREEDOM. GROWING UP FREE. LIVING FREE.
AND FIGHTING.
FIGHTING TO BE FREE.
FIGHT... TO BE FREE.

THE BLOOD OF THIS BEAST SHALL FLOW TO THE REALM OF THE FALLEN.
...TO THE FOOT OF OUR MASTER.
MAY ALL INNOCENCE DIE...
...AND EVIL BE EXALTED...
...AND FEAR BE UPON THE LAND!

AND ONCE AGAIN HE FALLS VICTIM TO THE CENTRAL IRONY OF HIS EXISTENCE.
SO FRIGHTFUL IS HIS OWN ANGER THAT UPON HIS ENTRANCE...
...THE PRESENCE OF FEAR WHICH HAUNTED HIS FUNERAL SCENES IS NOW ABSENT.
IN THE MIDST OF THE TURBULENCE, HOWEVER, HE SENSES AN AURA OF CALM.
A SINGULAR PRESENCE CONSUMED NOT BY FEAR.
...BUT FASCINATION.
AND THOUGH THE WOMAN UNDERSTANDS NEITHER HIS EMPATHIC NATURE NOR HIS BIZARRE PHYSIOLOGY...
THE EMOTIONAL SCARS HIS CRYPTIC EMBELLISHMENTS, SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WROUGHT FROM THE FLAMES.
...SHE SENSES AN OPPORTUNITY.
SHE WILL GIVE THIS CREATURE A BIT OF HER STRENGTH
SHE WILL GO TO HIM TO SAFETY AND IN RETURN,
...HE WILL HELP HER FIND THE PATH TO HADES.
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE.

CROSSING LINES III

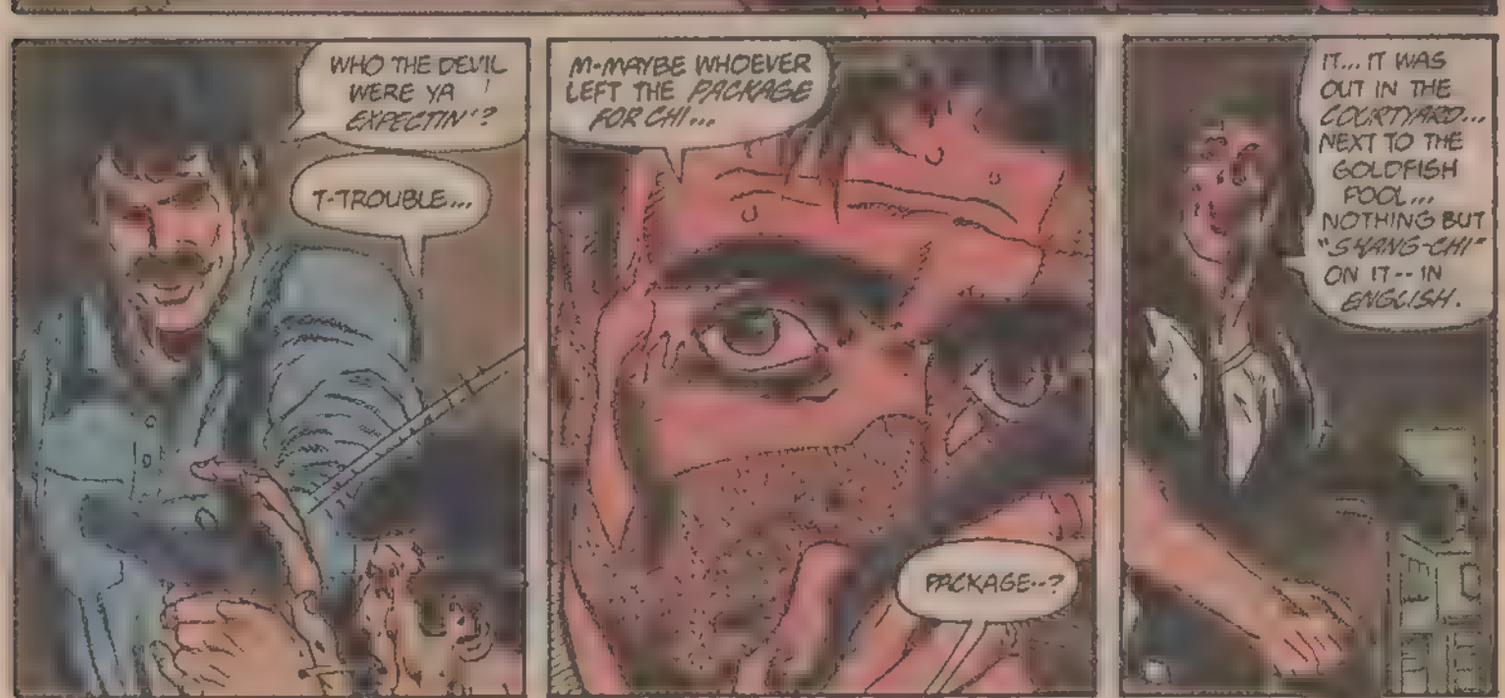
"THROUGH A WAKING NIGHTMARE OF DAYS, I HAUNT HONG KONG IN SEARCH OF LEIKO WU
"HERE AND THERE, FORMS OF LOVE STILL EXIST, GROTESQUELY MOCKING MY OWN LOSS.
"IN THE HARBOR BEHIND ME, A SHIP FOUNDERS LIKE A GREAT WOUNDED FISH--VICTIM OF THE FIFTH BOMB-BLAST I HAVE HEARD SINCE RETURNING TO LAND AND THE CITY.
"IT IS THE THIRD MORNING SINCE THE ONE ON WHICH LEIKO PROMISED TO EXPLAIN...

"ACCORDING TO SOME, NO ONE HAS SEEN HER.
"IF I LISTEN TO OTHERS, EVERYONE HAS.
"THEN THERE ARE THOSE, SHORN AND SILENCED BY LOVE, WHO CAN TELL ME NOTHING.
"STILL AND SILENT IN THE RICH HARVEST OF DEATH, AND HIMSELF LIKE A SHADE--
"--THEIR [illegible] A [illegible].
WONDERED WHEN YOU'D GET AROUND TO SHOWIN' UP HERE...
AND WHATEVER YOUR AMBIVALENT FEELINGS, CHINAMAN, XIAO IS A GOOD MAN.
IT'S LIKE SIR DENIS ONCE SAID ABOUT LAWRENCE... "NEVER HAVE I SEEN A PAWN MORE NOBLY PURSUED."
"BUT XIAO WELL... AT THE SIDE OF LEMO'S BED.
THIS IS THE FIRST PAWN I'VE DROPPED SINCE TAKIN' OVER -- AN' BELIEVE ME, THE ECHO'S MURDER.
MAYBE I'M STILL A PAWN AT HEART...

MAYBE I AIN'T CUT OUT TO BE A LEADER...CUZ LORD KNOWS IT'S ALL FALLIN' APART.
DIRTY AS IT IS, I THOUGHT I HAD A HANDLE ON THIS OPERATION--BUT NOW I'M LOST IN THE DARK.
EVEN RESTON...THE BLOODY FOOL WENT BACK TO THE BOTTLE LAST NIGHT...STARED AT A PICTURE O' WU TILL DAWN...
...MUMBLIN' ABOUT GIVIN' UP HIS SMOKES AN' RETIRIN'.
I NEED YA, CHINAMAN...CUZ THIS TERROR GAME IS MEAN, AN' I COULDN'T BEAR TO LOSE ANOTHER PAWN.
TELL ME ABOUT THIS NEW "GAME", TERR.
JUST LIKE BEFORE. ASSAD'S BOYS ARE STILL TRAININ' WITH THE HELP OF THE KGB--AND KHOMEINI'S FANATICS ARE STILL AT IT IN BEIRUT.
THE ONLY THING THE AMERICANS STOPPED IN LIBYA WAS THE LOUD BOMBIN'--WHILE THE CIA RUNS TERRORISTS IN NICARAGUA--AND HERE IN HONG KONG, A SPLINTER GROUP OF THE RED WOLVES IS BLOWIN' SHIPS OUTTA THE HARBOR.
WHICH BRINGS US TO THE NEW PART...
THEY'VE ALL DECIDED TO POOL THEIR RESOURCES UNDER ONE BIG HAPPY BANNER OF BLOOD--AN' IT'S GONNA FLY SOON.
AND YOU WERE GOING TO STOP THIS? THE FOUR OF YOU?
IT SOUNDS LOONEY, BUT WE FOUND A WAY TO DO IT--TO LOCATE THE BASE WHERE THE FACTIONS ARE TRAININ' FOR THEIR FIRST COORDINATED OPERATION--WHERE AS A LARGE FORCE MIGHT FAIL...OR EVEN WORSE, START A HALF-DOZEN WARS IF NOT A SINGLE BIG ONE.
BESIDES, IT'D TAKE TIME TO CONVINCE A GOVERNMENT--AND OUR PLAN MEANT ACTIN' FAST.
AND NOW.
AN' NOW...OUR PLAN REQUIRED ASIANS, TO INFILTRATE THE RED WOLVES, BUT WITH XIAO AN' WU BOTH GONE, THAT'S WIPED...UNLESS YOU...
NO.
IN A WAY, CHINAMAN... IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
MY "FAULT"?

IT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER YOU GOT HERE, D'DN'T IT? THE SIGHT O' YOU FORCED THEIR HAND.
FALSE "GUILT" WILL NOT MAKE ME JOIN YOU, TARR.
I WISH ONLY TO FIND LEIKO.
SO WE WANT WU BACK TOO, BUT I'VE ALSO WANNA SMASH THAT TERROR ALLIANCE, AN' SINCE SHE'S PROBABLY BEIN' HELD BY THEM--
PERHAPS THESE UNITING TERRORISTS WERE WATCHING YOUR "ORIENTAL EXPEDITERS" FRONT... BUT OTHERS ALSO TOOK NOTE OF MY ENTRY TO HONG KONG.
IT IS EQUALLY POSSIBLE THAT LEIKO WAS ABDUCTED-- AND XIAO KILLED--BY ASSASSINS LOOKING FOR ME.
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE, AND I WOULDN'T EVEN BE SURPRISED IF THE SI-FAN ASSASSINS JOINED THIS TERROR NETWORK-- BUT IT'S STILL YOUR FAULT
NOT A FARTHING-- AN' IF YOU'LL RECALL, WE NEVER MADE GOOD BUSINESSMEN, ACCEPTIN' ONLY THE JOBS WE BELIEVED IN.
TRUE MERCENARIES CAN'T AFFORD TO BE GOOD GUYS ALL THE TIME.
WHY IS YOUR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN THIS, TARR? IS THE MONEY THAT GOOD?
THEN WHY?
BECAUSE A BLOKE NAMED XIAO CAME TO US WITH NO MONEY BUT A SOB-STORY WE COULDN'T RESIST.
HIS WIFE AN' DAUGHTER WERE KILLED BY A RED WOLVES BOMB.
Y'SEE, HIS FAMILY'S FINAL HOLE IS FILLED NOW.
AND THE BOMBINGS HERE IN HONG KONG? WHAT PURPOSE DO THEY SERVE?
ANYWAYS, WHEN WE STARTED INVESTIGATIN' WITH XIAO, WE UNCOVERED BLOODY TENTACLES SPROUTIN' FROM THE RED WOLVES IN ALL DIRECTIONS:-- THE LINKING OF A TRUE TERROR NETWORK-- AND THAT'S WHEN WE REALLY GOT HOOKED

THIS CITY WON'T BE UNDER BRITISH PROTECTORATE MUCH LONGER, AND THERE'S A LOT TO BE GAINED HERE--A LOT UP FOR GRABS--BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLIT'CALLY.
BUT WHETHER THE TERRORISTS ARE SERVIN' A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OR GANGSTERS OR A COALITION OF BOTH, WE DON'T CARE, CUZ IT'S TRIVIAL IN THE FACE O' WHAT'S COMIN' UP.
SURE, THE BOMBINGS'VE GOTTA BE STOPPED--BUT TERROR'S GOTTA BE SQUASHED.
NOW I'M SICK OF ALL THIS DEATH
YOU WANNA HEAR MORE, CHINAMAN, IT'LL HAVE TO BE BACK AT THE EXPEDITERS OFFICE, CUZ I'M GONNA GO CHECK UP ON--
RESTON?
YOU HERE--?
FREEZE!!
HUH?
EASY, RESTON, YA BLOODY IDJIT!


WHO THE DEVIL WERE YA EXPECTIN'?
T-TROUBLE...
M-MAYBE WHOEVER LEFT THE PACKAGE FOR CHI...
PACKAGE--?
IT... IT WAS OUT IN THE COURTYARD... NEXT TO THE GOLDFISH POOL... NOTHING BUT "SHANG-CHI" ON IT--IN ENGLISH.

WHERE'S THIS PACKAGE NOW?
RIGHT THERE... IN THE LAB...
I X-RAYED IT... SPECTROSCOPE... NOT A BOMB... BUT IT...
...IT'S STARTING TO STINK...
"OH PEW!...
"AND MORE.
A H-HAND...HER HAND! WU'S!
OH GOD...OH MY GOD...
XIAO AND LEIKO...THEY WERE LOVERS?
AT...AT A TIME LIKE THIS.. Y-YOU GOTTA ASK A THING LIKE--
WERE THEY LOVERS?

SHE WAS HUMAN, Y'KNOW --IS HUMAN!
SHE NEEDED SOMEONE WHILE YOU WERE OFF MEDITATIN' ON YER BLOODY WATER-RAFFLES, BUT JUST CUZ SHE COZIED UP TO XIAO AND TRIED TO COMFORT HIM AFTER HE LOST HIS WIFE, THAT DON'T MEAN SHE--
AND THE RING?
YEAH. XIAO GAVE IT TO HER.
THEN TAKE IT C'F AND KEEP IT, TARR.
SHE CAN DECIDE IF SHE WANTS IT FOR HER OTHER HAND AFTER I BRING HER BACK.
THEN YOU ARE GONNA HELP US?
THAT IS NOT WHAT I SA'D.
YOU... YOU'VE GOT TO, CHI...
LEIKO MAY'VE BEEN ABLE TO DROP M'E... BUT SHE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU... XIAO OR NOT.
I SAID I WOULD BRING HER BACK, RESTON.

BIG MAN--BUT WHAT ABOUT US, CHINAMAN?
YOU THINK YOU CAN LEAVE ME AN' RESTON OUT IN THE COLD AND DO IT ALL ON YER 'OWN?
VERY WELL...
I WILL AT LEAST LISTEN TO YOUR PLAN.
GOOD...
KLUNK
RRRRRR
THEN I'M BACK IN, TOO.
"NO.
"RESTON MAY SOON BE GOBBR... BUT HE WILL STILL BE WRONG."

THE THING
THE MEASURE OF A MAN!
LOOK OUT, TIMMY!
WH-WHAT IS IT, MA?
SHEESH! USEDTA BE I COULD GET AWAY WITH TH' HAT AN' OVERCOAT. BUT SINCE I TOOK THAT EXTRA DOSE OF COSMIC RAYS--
--I'MA EVEN UGLIER "THING" THAN I WAS BEFORE!
EVEN BEIN' LEADER OF TH' FANTASTIC FOUR DON'T MAKE UP FOR THAT!
UGH!
I--I SEEN HIS PITCHER IN THE PAPERS BUT I NEVER KNEW HE WAS THAT HORRIBLE!

YA WANNA LOOK AT TH' FREAK? OKAY THEN, HERE! TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
RUN! HE'S GOING BERSERK!
FEAR! I CAN SENSE IT! AND THERE IS THE CAUSE OF IT-- THAT ORANGE-SKINNED CREATURE!
--THAT THE [illegible] HAS FOUND HIS ANIMAL AT LAST!
MY PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH THESE UNIQUE TYPES OF BEINGS ENDED ONLY IN FRUSTRATION! CAPTAIN AMERICA... THE SILVER SURFER...
I TASTED OF THEIR FEARS, BUT THEY OVERCAME THOSE FEARS AND DROVE ME OFF!
BUT THE THING MAY HAVE FEARS I CAN FEED ON! I'LL GET--WITHOUT HAVING TO ASSIST TO COMMUNING [illegible] FEARS I HAVE BECOME BOUND WITH!
NOW, ALL-BUT-UNNOTICED, I WILL HUNT DOWN THIS ONE!
AHHHH, I'VE TRAPPED HIM WELL! A COSMIC ACCIDENT TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THIS HUMAN BEAST HE IS! AND THOUGH COURAGE ABOUNDS WITHIN HIM--
--HIS FEARS ARE GREAT AS WELL! HAH! IRON C! WHILE THE SILVER SURFER FEARED BEING RETURNED TO HIS MORTAL IDENTITY ABOVE ALL ELSE--
--BEN GRIMM, CALLED THE THING, IS MOST AFRAID THAT HE WILL NEVER REGAIN HIS HUMAN FORM!

LET ME USE MY POWERS TO PLAY UPON THAT FEAR-- FIRST BY OFFERING HIM HOPE...
LOOK! LOOK! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM NOW?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I AIN'T GONNA STAY AROUND TO WATCH!
HUH?
WHAT ARE THOSE YAHOOS JABBERIN' ABOUT?
HEY! THOSE SPIKEY LUMPS-- THEY'RE FADIN'--
--I'M CHANGIN' BACK TO MY OLD ROCKY SELF! M-MAYBE I'LL KEEP RIGHT ON CHANGIN BACK TO NORMAL... BACK TO BEN GRIMM!
AND NOW I'LL SNATCH THAT HOPE AWAY...
NO! IT STOPPED! BLAST IT, IT STOPPED!
AHHH--DESPAIR SETS IN! AND WITH IT THE GROWING CERTAINTY--THE GROWING FEAR--THAT HE WILL NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN!
MUST STRIKE WHILE HE IS VULNERABLE...LEST MY POWER ON THE CROWD...

THAT'S IT, AIN'T IT? I'LL NEVER... NEVER BE... HUMAN... AGAIN...
SO, WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT BEING HUMAN?
HUMANS ARE WEAK!
HUMANS ARE FOOLS!
COME WITH US! BE OUR KING!
YES, YOU ARE ONE OF US! BE THE KING OF THE MONSTERS!
N-NO... NO!
NO! I AIN'T A MONSTER!

I AIN'T!

HE'S LASHING OUT-- FIGHTING BACK--DRIVING HIS FEAR AWAY!
MUST SWITCH TACTICS AT ONCE...

C'MON, YA DANG REJECTS FROM TH' STAR WARS CANTINA SCENE! I SEEN UGLIER MUGS'N YOURS DOWN ON...

...YANCY STREET?

WHAT HAPPENED? THEY'RE ALL GORGEOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN!
GET BACK, GET AWAY!
IT'S HIDEOUS! A MONSTER!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? AM I FINALLY CRACKIN' UP? LOSIN' IT? I NEVER MEANT TO HURT NOBODY...
LOOK, HE'S TURNING AWAY!
HA! THE UGLY BRUTE IS AFRAID!
LET'S GET IT!
KILL IT!
CAN'T BE HAPPENIN'! MY WORST NIGHTMARE--
SOMETHING THIS UGLY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO LIVE!
--I'M ALONE! TH' ONLY MONSTER IN A WORLD OF BEAUTY!
AN' I'LL NEVER BE HUMAN AGAIN!
AT LAST! HE'S GIVING IN TO HIS FEARS-- NOW I CAN DEVOUR THEM!
AHHHH--SO MUCH SPICIER THAN MERE FEAR OF DEATH. IT'S ALMOST A SHAME THAT WHEN I FINISH MY FEAST MY HOST WILL DIE!

WAITAMINNIT!
:GULP!: THE FEAR FLOW IS EBBING--BUT THERE WAS SO MUCH MORE...
HOW CAN HE BE FIGHTING BACK NOW? NOW?!
GET OFFA ME, YOU CREEPS!
IS THIS TH' WAY YOU TREAT SOMEONE WHO'S HAD A RAW DEAL--BEEN DISFIGURED?
THERE AIN'T A DROP OF HUMAN COMPASSION OR DIGNITY IN TH' LOT OF YA!
YER TH' MONSTERS, NOT ME! FER ALL MY UGLY ORANGE HIDE, BENEATH IT ALL I'M STILL A MAN...

A MAN, Y'HEAR ME?!
AN I'D RATHER LOOK LIKE A MONSTER THAN ACT LIKE ONE!
OH, NO! HE'S STAVED OFF HIS FEAR...
HERE I GO AGAIN!
NOW WHAT? I'M LUMPIN' UP AGAIN! AND ALL THESE "BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE" ARE TURNIN' BACK INTO REG'LAR LOOKIN' FOLKS!
OOGH!
WHAT HIT ME?
LUCKY THING NO SERIOUS DAMAGE WAS DONE! WONDER WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I HEARD ABOUT A BUNCHA PEOPLE TURNIN' INTA MONSTERS DOWN IN WASHINGTON DC*--MAYBE SOMEONE PUMPED SOME'A THAT DRUG INTA TH' LOCAL WATER.
I'D BEST HEAD BACK TO FF HEADQUARTERS AN' TRY TA DOPE THIS OUT...
*SEE CAPTAIN AMERICA #344 --TERRY.
THIS FAILURE WAS... TOO MUCH. IF I DON'T FIND SOME FEAR TO FEAST ON SOON--
--I SHALL SURELY STARVE TO DEATH!
THE END.

FEATURING
MASTER OF KUNG FU
THE THING
THE MAN-THING

In Two Weeks...

FEATURING
MAN-THING
MASTER OF KUNG FU
the mighty THOR
MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
WOLVERINE